

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 12-16 and 18-27 are pending in the application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner refers to the dependency of claim 14. Applicant believes that claim 14 has already been amended to depend from claim 27, and requests reconsideration.

Claims 1-9, 12-16 and 18-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,662,198 B2 (Satyanarayanan). This rejection is respectfully but strenuously traversed and reconsideration and a withdrawal of the rejection is hereby respectfully requested.

The Applicant's invention is not disclosed or suggested by the '198 reference and should be patentable. The Examiner refers to a number of passages of the '198 reference, including the text at col. 24, lines 30-64. The Examiner's reliance on the '198 reference, actually teaches away from the present invention. Turning to the '198 reference, the specific language relied on by the Examiner states:

In accordance with FIG. 16 when the program of system 10 and a user/requestor/insertor 22 wishes to insert an entry in a database 14 thus protected, it uses an insert key 60, which has two parts--the namespace 64 and tag 66. The namespace part of the key 64 is a random string, ***the tag 66 differentiates between different entries in the same namespace.*** The location-based ***access control*** 16 then hashes the namespace (but only the namespace) and stores the entry using the hashed namespace 68 and the tag 66. When reading an entry from the database, we pass a request key 62 with the hashed namespace 68 and the tag, and the server then looks up the entry that is stored under this key in a specific part of the database defined by the namespace 70. To emphasize the point--when inserting the namespace, and it is hashed the key parts 68 are passed as is. If the user/requestor/insertor 22 does not know the hash, the user/requestor/insertor 22 cannot request data.

If the user only knows the hash, they can read only. If the user wants to insert, it will be inserted under a new namespace defined by the hash and not inserted

under the original name space. For example, original namespace is 1234 so that the hash is 5678. User is able to read 5678 (because user knows the hash 5678). If the user wishes to insert an updated version or modified version then the system will hash the value they pass (in accordance with user's key) so that the new hash (if they pass 5678) will be 9101112, and this will be inserted under a different namespace. So, as we wanted, we have three levels of access:

Whoever knows the namespace value can insert and request entries under that namespace.

Whoever knows the hash of the namespace can request entries for that namespace, but not insert.

Whoever knows neither can not even request entries that under this namespace.

The '198 reference discloses, and clearly states, that it is an access control system to regulate access by a user to certain files. See, for example, the text appearing on column 26, lines 39-47, which discusses that the user may designate a file as the shared file so long as the designated file is stored in the designated folder. The file will then be transmitted for sharing to the specified group automatically.

In addition to the '198 patent being directed to a different method and hence not disclosing the Applicant's claimed method and apparatus, the cited reference also fails to suggest the Applicant's claimed invention. The '198 reference fails to demonstrate a second data file hash value for each one of said second data file names. Applicant has amended claims 1, 18 and 27 to more particularly articulate the present invention.

Applicant's invention, as recited in claim 1, includes the step of ". . . generating a second data file hash value for each one of said second data file file names, or when the said file corresponding to the second data file file name does not exist providing notification of that, wherein said data file hash file is comprised of the contents of each file referred to by each of said second data file file names . . ." Claim 18 also has been amended to recite

the feature of ". . . a means for generating a second data file hash value for each one of said second data file file names, or when the said file corresponding to the second data file file name does not exist providing notification of that, wherein said data file hash file is comprised of the contents of each file referred to by each of said second data file file names" Claim 27, a method claim, has been amended to recite the feature ". . . wherein records in the secure system data file have a one-to-one correspondence with the contents of the file, the file name, and the hash value of the contents of the file name."

In the cited '198 reference, a tag (66) is used to differentiate between entries in the same namespace. (Col. 24, lines 30-46.) The '198 reference appears to rely on a namespace and namespace location to resolve whether a particular cached version is appropriate. The Applicant's present invention provides that the "records in the secure system data file have a one-to-one correspondence with the files that are being protected." (Specification par. [0027]). Applicant's invention, as claimed, generates a database of cryptographic hash values for each file managed by the system. Applicant's method by utilizing a first data file hash value and a second data file hash value facilitates generation of a comparison to ascertain the status of a file, including, for example, whether a file has been modified, added, removed, duplicated or may pose a danger, and/or if the totality of the files fits a baseline configuration. Applicant's method in claim 1 generates a second data file hash value for each one of said second data file file names, and in claim 27 recites that records in the secure system data file have a one-to-one correspondence with the files for which said first hash value has been created.

Applicant's invention is further distinguishable over the '198 reference, as the present invention includes ". . . the sending each second data file hash value and each

second data file file name to a comparison component." The comparison component of the present invention is disclosed and recited in each of the Applicant's claims. The '198 reference expressly states that it is method for file sharing, backing up and distributing data. (Col. 1 lines 8-11, Field of the Invention) The Examiner's reliance on col. 13 lines 57-65 of the '198 reference is to a backup system where the user may compare snapshots as shown in Figs. 10 and 11. From a reading of the text preceding this cited passage, namely at col. 13 lines 33 – 49, the purpose of the '198 method is to enable users to work on a file while distributing a version of the file to others. This does not suggest or disclose the Applicant's claimed method and apparatus. Moreover, the objects of the '198 file sharing and back up method recited on col. 7 of the '198 reference demonstrate a different purpose and process. Unlike the '198 reference, the Applicant discloses that its method, including the claimed recitation of a comparison component, and generation of a second file hash value for each one of said second data file file names, may generate a comparison report. (*See e.g.*, Table 3 of the Specification.)

The additional references made of record but not relied upon, for the same reasons, do not teach suggest or disclose the Applicant's present invention.

The '198 reference fails to disclose or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention as recited in the independent claims 1, 18 and 27. For the above reasons, the Examiner's 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1, 18 and 27 be allowed.

For the same reasons, the dependent claims also are not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited reference, and should be allowed.

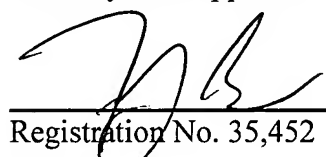
CONCLUSION

Applicant's invention is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited references relied on by the Examiner. Applicant's presently claimed invention should be patentable.

If necessary, an appropriate extension of time to respond is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Patent Office Deposit Account No. 05-0208.

Respectfully submitted,
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